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Update on Soviet Military Forces Opposite Iran

- I. Since at least the first of this year, the Soviets have been paying unusually close attention to the combat preparedness of their military forces in the Transcaucasus Military District opposite northwestern Iran. There continues to be no evidence that the Soviets are making the sort of preparations for military action against Iran--such as the buildup of logistics stocks--that immediately preceded the Afghan invasion.
- A. The unusually high level of field training activity by forces in the Transcaucasus noted in January and February declined somewhat in March, but activity levels remained high at the Soviet airborne division in the military district.
1. Artillery units from at least three divisions were absent from garrison and engaged in field training exercises for about three weeks during February.
 2. Elements of a tank regiment normally located about 40 kilometers from the Iranian border returned to garrison

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in late March following a field deployment of over six weeks.

B. Soviet units in the Transcaucasus have also continued to receive new equipment since the first of the year.

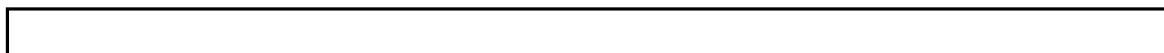
1. One motorized rifle regiment garrisoned only a few kilometers from the Iranian border and previously equipped only with cargo trucks received a full compliment of the Soviets' newest armored personnel carrier--the BTR-70.



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II. In the Turkestan Military District opposite northeastern Iran, one motorized rifle division which had been fully mobilized and moved to the Afghan border, returned to its garrison opposite northeastern Iran in late February. We have been unable to determine if the division has been demobilized [REDACTED]

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Approved For Release 2005/11/23 : CIA-RDP81B00401R000600010003-5

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